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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration of the captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is requested.

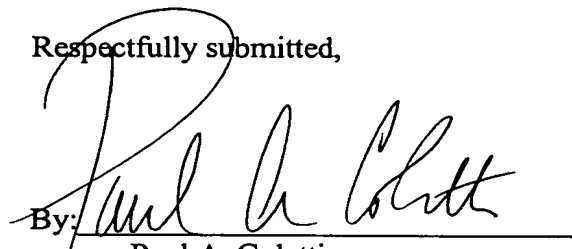
Claims 7-8, 10-14, 16, 18 and 19 remain in this application. Claims 1-6, 9, 15 and 17 have been canceled.

Early favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is/are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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Dated: June 4, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 9 after "a" please insert -- continuation of Serial No. 09/256,914, filed February 24, 1999, which is a --.

In the Claims:

7. (Amended) A stent comprising a first cylindrical form and a second cylindrical form connected thereto;

said second cylindrical form placed alongside a wall portion of the first cylindrical form and forming a connector thereat so that the stent forms a "Y"-shaped opening through the interior portion of the stent without overlap; and

said stent having a welded connection at the connection between said first and second cylindrical forms.

10. (Amended) A stent comprising a first cylindrical form and a second cylindrical form connected thereto;

said second cylindrical form placed alongside a wall portion of the first cylindrical form so that the stent forms a "Y"-shaped opening through the interior portion of the stent without overlap; said stent having a welded connection at the connection between said first and second cylindrical forms; and

wherein said welded connection is accomplished around the entire circumference of said second cylindrical form.

14. (Amended) A stent comprising a first cylindrical form and a second cylindrical form connected thereto;

said second cylindrical form placed alongside a wall portion of the first cylindrical form and forming a connector thereat so that the stent forms a "Y"-shaped opening through the interior portion of the stent without overlap; and

said stent having a welded connection at the connection between said first and second cylindrical forms; and

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wherein said stent has a first cylindrical form with an opening formed in the wall of said cylindrical form, and said opening generally corresponding to the circumference of said second cylindrical form.

16. (Amended) A bifurcated stent comprising:
- a proximal tubular section;
 - a first distal tubular section, said first distal tubular section connected to said proximal section by connector members; and
 - a second distal tubular section, said first and second distal tubular sections attached together at their proximal ends by a plurality of flexible hooks arranged around said second distal tubular section circumference.

Please add the following new claims:

18. A bifurcated stent comprising:
- a proximal tubular section;
 - a first distal tubular section, said first distal tubular section connected to said proximal section by connector members;
 - a second distal tubular section, said first and second distal tubular sections welded together at their proximal ends; and
 - wherein the shape of the connection is different than the strut shape of the proximal and distal sections.
19. The stent of claim 18 wherein said distal end and proximal sections are expandable to different diameters. --